

WASHINGTON.

[FROM THE ASSOCIATED PRESS.]

WASHINGTON, May 23.

The President has nominated H. A. Southam, of North Carolina, consul at Tampico, and G. D. Smith, as collector of the Eighth Virginia District.

SENATE.

The consideration of the Appropriation bill was resumed, and at the night session an amendment giving males and females like pay for the like work was adopted.

HOUSE.

In the House, among bills, that for the improvement of Cumberland River was referred; the bill to exempt internal and coastwise vessels from tonnage duties passed.

The bill enforcing the Fifteenth amendment was non-concurred in. A committee of conference was asked, and Blaine appointed Bingham, Davis and Kerr a committee on the part of the House.

A bill was adopted giving the State Department an examiner of claims and three additional clerks.

Newman, of Louisiana, was sworn in by a vote of 75 to 77.

A bill pending for a resident minister at Rome was defeated.

Judd moved a suspension of the rules that might introduce a bill for the reduction of the import duties, as follows:

On syrups, molasses and all sugars and on salt 33 1/2 per cent.

On coffee and tea 20 per cent.

On pig and scrap iron 23 1/2 per cent.

The motion was rejected. Yeas 102. Nays 82, less than two-thirds voting in the affirmative.

EUROPE.

Union of Spain and Portugal.

PARIS, May 23.

Madrid letters confirm the report that Prim and Saldanha have an understanding whereby the Iberian Union will be established.

The Austrian Crisis.

VIENNA, May 23.

An Imperial decree dissolves the Reichsrath and the Provincial Diets. New elections are ordered, and should the Diets fail to elect delegates to the Reichsrath, the Crown will appeal to the people for that purpose.

The Alleged Cuban Horrors.

MADRID, May 23.

In the Cortes on Saturday a deputy questioned the Minister concerning the reported concerted action of Great Britain and the United States for the mitigation of alleged Cuban horrors.

Morete replied that while such rumors had been extensively published, the government was without official information on the subject.

He reminded the deputies that Captain-General De Rodas had repeatedly invited American commissioners to visit Cuba and examine into these alleged cruelties and see for themselves how utterly false the stories were.

Arrival of Steamers.

QUEENSTOWN, May 23.

The Manhattan and City of Brussels have arrived.

French Gossip.

PARIS, May 23.

The French Postmaster-General has been seriously injured by a runaway horse.

The High Court of Justice meets on June 15, to try the alleged regicides.

THE PARAGUAYAN WAR.

LISBON, May 23.

Count D'Eu, upon his return to Rio Janeiro, had a magnificent reception.

The Province of Entrerios, in the Argentine Republic, has declared against the government.

CUBA.

HAVANA, May 23.

The Spanish steamer Santa Spiritus has been lost on Cayo Petras. Crew saved.

De Rodas telegraphs the killing of sixty-six insurgents, including eight chiefs and two Americans. Regent Serrano's nephew was badly wounded.

Colonel Berzel reports the killing of twenty-five insurgents.

A dispatch from Caracas, May 9th, states that General Blanco captured Caracas. The city was considerably damaged by the artillery fire. Five hundred persons were killed. The new government has abolished duties and reduced the tariff seventy per cent.

THE COTTON SUPPLY.

LONDON, May 23.

Late dispatches from Bombay state that nearly one-half of the cotton now shipped from Indian ports goes by way of the Suez Canal.

Only a small portion, however, reaches England. The bulk of the cotton so shipped goes to various ports in the Mediterranean.

The Manchester Cotton Supply Association have congratulated the Brazilian minister upon the increased production of Santos cotton.

THE DISASTER AT LA CROSSE.

New York, May 23.

A special dispatch from La Crosse to the Democrat says that the loss by the recent fire will exceed fifty men, women and children, and that the railroad and steamboat managers are anxious that the number burned and drowned shall not be known. Of the crowd of emigrants aboard the ill-fated steamer but few were saved.

THE DEMOCRATIC VICTORY.

New York, May 23.

The Albany Argus, of this morning, makes the Democratic majority in the State thirty-eight thousand.

SPARKS FROM THE WIRES.

The steamer Benicia has arrived at Rio Janeiro—all well. She felt two earthquakes, followed by heavy meteoric showers, in latitude 100.00, longitude 24.02.

A New York dispatch says that the executive officers of the Adams Express state that the reported sale of the State Road to Adams Express Company is wholly without foundation.

From a recent exhibit of the business of the Anglo-American Telegraph Company, it appears that the receipts for cable dispatches for nine months, ending 31st of January last, were about \$600,000, and that the expenses were comparatively merely nominal, not much exceeding \$60,000—so that there was a net profit of nearly 90 per cent. of the receipts.

The effect of the reduction of charges which was made in August last from \$1 to 10 cents a message of ten words, was a decrease in the daily average of receipts from \$3000 to \$2300. The receipts of the last three months have averaged about \$2400 a day, at which rate the cable will, in the course of a few years, be able to reduce its tolls so as to bring its advantages within reach of the people.

THE FAMOUS FIELD OF MANASSAS.

Rambles over the Scene of the Conflict—Reminiscences of the First Great Battle—"Camp Pickens," as it is—Time's Changes—The Village of Manassas To-day.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

MANASSAS, VA., May 5.

Could one of Bobham's men stop to-day on the plains of Manassas, he would not recognize the old site of Camp Pickens, nor the old bare of supplies of the Army of Northern Virginia. Wonderful changes have occurred in the appearance of this region during the past decade; metamorphoses without parallel in American history. A traveler, just before the war, speaks of the town, as consisting of a low wooden depot, a dingy saloon, and a half dozen of houses, on a broad and monotonous plain. When General Bonham came up this way in 1861, he saw the strategic value of the junction of the railroads, and rested here with his three South Carolina regiments, while the flames of Secession were crackling all over the South, and thousands after thousands of recruits came flocking into the nucleus-point of Camp Pickens. Men came out from frightened Washington, three hundred at one time, to join the gathering army, until finally the Palmetto flag was exchanged for the standard of the Confederacy, or carried side by side with it, just as the opposing Pine-tree flag of Massachusetts was borne with the other standard. There was a great population suddenly transferred to these quiet fields, from city and hamlet and farm-house of the South, sterner and patiently preparing for a coming day, how soon none could know, when the dread arbitration of war would decide their cause. When that day came, it was an exciting one in the new city of canvas. Its guards and garrison joined the columns retreating from Centerville, on the banks of Bull Run, and all through that long, hot Sabbath of midsummer the roar of cannon and the crash of musketry rolled across the plains to the ears of the provost men, and the number of wounded came pouring thicker and faster from the field, until all accommodations were full. Then came that fearful moment when three or four shattered regiments came drifting through the fields and roads in a great cloud of fugitives, broken and disheartened, probable precursor of a general rout. A train stopped far out of the junction—Elzey's men pour out of it—form, and sweep across the fields; and the rout is stayed, the tables are turned, and old Camp Pickens, reorganizing its wearied fugitives, breaks into cheering and triumphant salvos from captured guns.

For eight months thereafter the depot of supplies for the army, great forts grew up about it, and miles of redoubts and trenches defended its outposts at Centerville and Fairfax. One or two of these field-works were garrisoned by that jaunty corps of naval artillery, not a few of whose members were from Charleston and Savannah. These horse marines and "sea fencibles" were so handy with the big guns, as to command the admiration of the army—and it would have fared ill with a storming party who could have tried conclusions with these soldier lads. But Manassas was demurely evacuated without a trial of arms, and served for long after as a depot for the magnificent Pope—not as his headquarters, of course, for we all remember that that was "in the saddle." He was the gentleman who proposed to walk right through Virginia, without being encountered with "lines of retreat and bases of supply." So General Jackson, doubting Thomas that he was, swung in behind him at Manassas, and found as fine and costly a base of supplies as the Southern torch had ever dissipated. Meanwhile, there was a merry little stampede here by the horses of a Pennsylvania cavalry regiment, who persisted in carrying their six hundred riders away into the Washington fortifications. Sagacious horses! happy masters! Then two Ohio infantry regiments, at Union Mills, thought they would go up to the junction and investigate a little. General Stuart persuaded them to make a short stay and a speedy exit. A day or two after, the First, Second, Third and Fourth regiments of New Jersey thought that they would show the Americans, Federal and Confederate, what foreign troops could do. So they started from Alexandria to find out what was up at Manassas; and they stopped at Burke's Station, and in a few minutes became sadder and wiser Jerseymen under the iron admonitions of the Confederate flanking column there awaiting them. The brigade was "cut to pieces," as the official report has it, but the "pieces" reached Alexandria, pulling the biggest kind of a raw-head-and-bloody-bones panic after them. Meantime the Army of the Potomac was being beaten in detail; Rickett marched into Manassas with his ragged veterans of the Cedar Mountain stampede, and united with King, who had just been thrashed at Bull Run—massing the two bewildered divisions over the track, and resting on their arms. The next day King formed line again, and at sunset moved down into the battle, only to see his weary and disheartened men broken, after a short struggle and in full retreat over the fields. The great inconclusive and disjointed army gave back that night, and the plains and valleys settled into quietude once more.

During this complication of combats Manassas reached her lowest ebb of misfortune. It was a broad scene of smoldering destruction and desolation. Dead horses lay thickly where the cavalry and light batteries had been engaged—half-buried corpses emitted horrid and pestiferous effluvia, shattered wagons and the wreck of retreat strewn the roads, and the only edifice visible was a rude little telegraph station, shanty by the track, whose rails were torn up or bent into all shapes by the great trains burning upon them.

From this terrible waste and ruin let us turn to a fairer sight—the Manassas of to-day. It is a pretty village of over a hundred houses, grouped about the depot, with broad streets in good condition, lined with residences, stores, smithies, and all the offices of a considerable population. Many of these houses are neat and tasty, some are even elegant, and the hotel is a pleasant spacious one indeed—while quietly Religion has built her temple on a grassy lawn at the end of a fine street. The inhabitants are mostly from the North, a sturdy, hard-working yeomanry, bringing down those habits of industry and sobriety which have made a garden-land of even cold and rocky New England. Their principles are also of the North, but this does not trouble the good Virginians who have settled among them, for they are making a political colony; they came down on the borders of the Sunny South to make homes for themselves, not to become office-holders. So the fields, as far as the eye can reach, are under cultivation, the young wheat is breaking through the ground, and all the busy activities of the farm are in cheerful progress. Young trees are slowly growing up, to mitigate and soften the present bald aspect of the place—the germs of future grandeur brighten here and there in spots of floral brilliance and beauty—new houses are rising on newly acquired estates for the homes of future generations of thrifty Virginians, and a smart little local paper dispenses the tidings of the day, and indulges in occasional strains of prophetic enthusiasm, which would be worthy of Duluth or Omaha.

Poussin has a painting of a shaft and beautiful vase, with all the tender grace of a pastoral Eden, a sparkling rippling down through a velvet sward, by fair flowers and stately trees. But in the background—on an ancient tomb, with the inscription "Et in Arcadia ego." Thus, through all the rural beauty and freshness of the fertile plains, there rises a grimly embowered battery, glooming over the western borders with the same silent significance—sole memorial of the dread days when the grandest armies of a continent were surging in destroying waves about and towards this petty station. This is monument enough—the proud story is all told by this great hieroglyph of war.

OUR POLICY.

The Office of the June Convention.

[FROM THE COLUMBIA PHOENIX.]

The great purpose, as we understand it, of the June Convention, is to promulgate, in an authoritative way, the liberal basis upon which we propose to engage in the work of political reform, and, secondly, to bring together in effective combination the elements of opposition to the ruling faction. This is an important work, and it is at present in South Carolina, but little difference of opinion as to the necessity of a free and frank recognition on our part of the Fifteenth amendment to the Federal Constitution. *Rocheforts*, no doubt, we have. *Freemasons*, no doubt, there are. But the great mass of the whites of the State are not disposed to neglect the real and attainable in the effort to reach the sentimental and the impossible.

The June Convention, to give itself power, must, therefore, reaffirm the liberal sentiments embraced in the resolutions of the press conference. To second object, it occurs to us, we are not disposed to anticipate the course of reform. As means to this end, we presume an executive committee will be appointed, and a line of action laid down. Of course, the question will come up as to a State ticket. This cannot be decided here, but it will determine the time, the character, the question of the nomination. It will do what is deemed best for the public cause, and it is the duty of the convention to hold its power for future contingencies, or it will concentrate it at once promptly and earnestly upon a given point. We are not disposed to anticipate the course of reform. As means to this end, we presume an executive committee will be appointed, and a line of action laid down. Of course, the question will come up as to a State ticket. 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